

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for activating a Fibre Channel adapter, said method comprising:
receiving an activation request from a requesting device;
and
authenticating the requesting device, wherein the authenticating includes receiving an authentication key from an authentication server; and transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an open state in response to receiving the activation request the requesting device being authenticated.
2. (Original) The method as described in Claim 1 further comprising:
sending an activated response to the requesting device.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 3 1 wherein the authenticating includes:
receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the message is encrypted using a requesting device private key; and
deciphering the message using a requesting device public key.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 5 wherein the deciphering includes receiving the requesting device public key from ~~an~~ the authentication server.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as described in Claim 3 1 further comprising:
searching a list of authorized requesting devices;
wherein the setting transitioning is further in response to the requesting device matching one of the authorized requesting devices.
8. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:
one or more processors;
a memory accessible by the processors;
a nonvolatile storage device accessible by the processors;
a Fibre Channel adapter operable to connect the information handling system to a Fibre Channel network; and
a Fibre Channel activation routine, the routine including:
means for receiving an activation request from a requesting device; and
means for authenticating the requesting device,
wherein the means for authenticating includes
means for receiving an authentication key from an authentication server; and
means for transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an open state in response to receiving the activation request requesting device being authenticated.
9. (Original) The information handling system as described in Claim 8 further comprising:
means for sending an activated response to the requesting device.
10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim 10 8 wherein the means for authenticating includes:
means for receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the message is encrypted using a requesting device private key; and
means for deciphering the message using a requesting device public key.
13. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim 12 wherein the means for deciphering includes:
means for receiving the requesting device public key from an the authentication server.
14. (Currently Amended) The information handling system as described in Claim 10 8 further comprising:
means for searching a list of authorized requesting devices;
wherein the setting transitioning is further in response to the requesting device matching one of the authorized requesting devices.
15. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for activating a Fibre Channel adapter, said computer program product comprising:
means for receiving an activation request from a requesting device; and
means for authenticating the requesting device, wherein the means for authenticating includes means for receiving an authentication key from an authentication server;

means for transitioning the adapter from a quasi-open state to an open state in response to receiving the activation request the requesting device being authenticated.

16. (Original) The computer program product as described in Claim 15 further comprising:
means for sending an activated response to the requesting device.
17. (Cancelled)
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in Claim 17 15 wherein the means for authenticating includes:
means for receiving a message from the requesting device wherein the message is encrypted using a requesting device private key; and
means for deciphering the message using a requesting device public key.
20. (Currently Amended) The computer program product as described in Claim 19 wherein the deciphering includes receiving the requesting device public key from ~~an~~ the authentication server.